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(b) whether the Government have considered the difficulty to which female patients suffering from such diseases in the areas served by the Rayapuram and the General Hospitals are put in the absence of women doctors for their treatment in the above hospitals, in being asked to undertake a distant journey to the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital or to the Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, for treatment of such diseases; and

(c) whether the Government have considered the fact that women medical officers, if appointed in charge of venereal clinics will be able to train the students as well as men doctors can do?

A.—(a) As already stated, the Government do not consider that there is any urgent need for the appointment of lady doctors to the hospitals in which they are not at present employed.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government have had no occasion to examine the question.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"Will the hon. Minister consider the desirability of appointing a woman doctor to be in charge of the new venereal block for women patients when it is opened in the General Hospital?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I shall certainly consider the matter, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATHI MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a) stating that there is no urgent need for the appointment of women doctors, may I know whether they called for any figures from the Surgeon-General regarding the number of women patients."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"No, Sir."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"What is the ratio of female patients and male patients suffering from venereal disease?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I am not aware, Sir."

*Employment of lady assistant surgeons in the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore.*

*1545 Q.—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the majority of the Indian women prefer attendance by their own sex during confinement;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, whether the Government propose to employ a certain proportion of lady assistant surgeons in the staff of the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore;

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of giving a post-graduate training in the Maternity Hospital to all the women graduates that pass out of the Madras Medical College before they are sent to the mufassal to be in independent charge of dispensaries or hospitals; and

(d) if the answer to clause (c) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

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*A.*—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are not aware of such preference.
(*c*) & (*d*) Post-graduate training is already being given to two lady medical officers every year. The Government will be prepared to consider applications for such training.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), which states that the Government are not aware of any such preference, may I ask the hon. Minister whether when the answer was framed they were not in possession of a resolution passed by a big women's meeting in Triplicane held on the 27th July last to this effect, and may I know what action has been taken on that resolution or what action Government are going to take on it ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put a separate question on the subject. "

*Creation of a separate hospital for children in the City.*

* 1546 *Q.*—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to give effect to the resolution passed by this Council at its meeting held on the 31st March 1927, for the creation of a separate hospital for children in the City of Madras ?

*A.*—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Statement of Resolutions passed by the Madras Legislative Council and of the action taken thereon by the Government which was laid on the table on the 27th August 1927. As a first step towards the establishment of children's departments in the Government Hospital for Women and Children and the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras, the Government propose to send two selected medical officers to England, of whom one will be a lady doctor, for a course of special training in Pediatrics.

*Enforcement of the Midwives Act.*

* 1547 *Q.*—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government intend to enforce the Midwives Act in the near future ?

*A.*—Yes.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know when the Act is likely to be enforced ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Act has been brought into force from the 14th of this month. "

## Public Health

*Provision of a protected water-supply for Ahobilam.*

* 1548 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to call for information and state—

(*a*) whether the question of the provision of a protected water-supply for Ahobilam referred to in G.O. No. 4246, L. & M., dated 3rd November 1927, has been finally disposed of ; and